

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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TAGS:OEXC, RO (POPA, RADU-ALEXANDRU

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM

REF: BUCHAREST 6321

1. POPA RETURNING TO BUCHAREST JANUARY 21 ON TAROM 302. DEPT WAS PREPARED TO EXTEND GRANT FOR ANOTHER WEEK, BUT POPA'S TICKET WAS FOR 21-45 DAY EXCURSION WHICH EXPIRES JANUARY 23, AND EXTENSION WOULD HAVE COST ANOTHER DOLS 400. ROMANIAN EMBASSY HERE CABLED MIN ED FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PAY FOR EXTENSION, BUT MIN ED DISAPPROVED.

2. PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM WAS QUITE SUCCESSFUL, AND POPA VISITED UNIVERSITIES AND INSTITUTIONS SPECIALIZING IN REINFORCED CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WHICH ILLUSTRATED THESE TECHNIQUES. MOST PROFITABLE VISIT WAS AT AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE IN DETROIT WHERE POPA WAS WARMLY RECEIVED AND WHERE STAFF DEVOTED MUCH TIME TO DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM. HERE, AS ELSEWHERE, HE WAS GIVEN LARGE QUANTITIES OF MOST RECENT LITERATURE IN HIS FIELD. POPA ALSO FOUND MEETINGS PARTICULARLY USEFUL AT DREXEL AND UNIVERSITIES OF MICHIGAN AND

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CALIFORNIA (BERKELEY) WHERE SPECIAL EMPHASIS WAS ON EARTH-

QUAKE-PROOF CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES. SITE VISITS AT METRO

IN WASHINGTON AND SUPER-DOME IN NEW ORLEANS, AMONG OTHERS,
WERE OF GREAT SUBSTANTIVE INTEREST TO POPA.

3. POPA PARTICULARLY ENJOYED SIGHT-SEEING IN CALIFORNIA
AND NEW ORLEANS, AND HAD A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO SAMPLE
AMERICAN HOSPITALITY IN HOMES OF VOLUNTEERS IN THOSE
PLACES.

4. POPA'S GRANT WAS BEGUN ON DECEMBER 23, FOLLOWING DE-
PARTURE OF HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER WHOSE MEDICAL TREATMENT
AT PHILADELPHIA WAS MORE THAN SATISFACTORY. POPA HOPES
TO BE ABLE TO BRING DAUGHTER BACK AGAIN IN 1976 FOR CON-
TINUING CARE. A BRIEF PROBLEM DID ARISE AT PORT OF ENTRY
CONCERNING DAUGHTER'S ADMISSABILITY, BUT THIS CAN BE
AVOIDED BY FOLLOWING PROCEDURE SUGGESTED IN HUTSON-TIMS
O-I WHICH ENROUTE. SISCO

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